

Ambulance District Oversight Committee

Minutes 10/18/2011 Meeting

Board Members Present: Chief Sam Lubin, Board Chair Dr. Bob Seebacher, Board Vice Chair Richard Wishnie, Ossining Mayor Bill Hanauer, Ossining Town Supervisor Catherine Borgia, Ron Dornau

Also Present: OVAC Captain Lorene Mettler, OVAC Treasurer/ Acting Chairman Alex Beck, Ossining Village Manager Richard Leins, New Castle Village Manager Penny Pitowski, Ossining Village Trustee Sue Donnelly, Ossining Town Councilman Peter Tripodi, members of OVAC, members of the public.

Dr. Seebacher called the meeting to order at 7:10PM.

The Board began by looking at the submitted 2012 budget. Supervisor Borgia spoke about the implications of the 2% tax cap, and how in other kinds of districts, expenses can be offset by increasing elsewhere, but that is not possible in the Ambulance District.

Alex Beck responded that they had met with an accountant that week to get better and more finalized figures. By going over the payroll, they realize they had understated taxes on what was received (updated copies to come from Chief Lubin). What is represented in the presented budget does not include a salary increase, but just added payroll taxes, Social Security, and Medicare.

Chief Lubin mentioned that they were expecting a 5% increase in healthcare costs, and that he was investigating asking employees to make a contribution to their healthcare costs to offset this increase, so the presented figures could go down accordingly. However, he maintains that we will not know until 45 days out what the real numbers look like.

Dr. Seebacher mentioned that he would very much like to have had last year's figures to compare to these. He is concerned that, in light of the tax cap, anything over a 2% increase will not sit well.

Alex Beck said that the budget was proposed without prior numbers, and that \$625k represents a much larger increase than 2%.

Catherine Borgia confirmed that Special Districts are definitely subject to the 2% cap.

Dr. Seebacher explained to the Board that one advantage he sees is that the chairman of the OVAC board was in attendance to discuss this (Alex Beck). OVAC has a much larger budget than is being subsidized by this district, and that new things may be going on between Phelps and OVAC that may lead to them helping in different ways. Dr. Seebacher is not happy to see increases, Richard Wishnie advises that the Board will work with OVAC only up to the 2% increase allowable.

Dr. Seebacher asks if Mr. Beck is intending to remain in his new post, and Mr. Beck says that he is for now. He and Sue Donnelly agree that there could be other opportunities to go to a bigger health plan and find other efficiencies.

In response to Supervisor Borgia's question as to whether Personnel numbers provided include coverage of Croton, Chief Lubin stated that the numbers cover one person in Croton until additional per diems are hired.

Dr. Seebacher brings up the benefits of economies of scale, and says we need to get better right now with what we have and make sure current taxpayers are not paying for newcomers to the District (Croton).

Alex Beck mentions that OVAC has still not been paid yet by Croton, and Supervisor Borgia reports that the invoice was sent to them by the Town of Ossining over a month ago.

There is also discussion about the transfer of the title of Chief's car from the Town of Ossining to the Ambulance District. Supervisor Borgia states that this was discussed at the June meeting, that the Ambulance District would pick up the final lease payments and take the car off of the Town's hands, which is a win-win situation, as it satisfied OVAC's request for a car for the Chief, prevents the Town from having to go to auction, and creates a tangible asset for the Ambulance District. The Town has made the 2011 payment, and the Ambulance District needs to reimburse the Town for the pro-rated amount (about \$14,000).

Richard Wishnie calls for a Formal Motion for the Ambulance District to assume lease payments for one car loaned to the District, and make the Town whole for the leased car cost. Supervisor Borgia mentions that the title must also be transferred to the Ambulance District, as the Town currently insures the vehicle, and advises that this cost must be part of the district's budget as well.

Motion- No Discussion, 2nd. All in Favor

Chief Lubin mentions the Croton Request for Proposal (RFP)- the lawyers need to look at it. He proposes \$16.92/hour (no increase). Supervisor Borgia suggests that for this meeting, the Board not speak in specifics but rather just about the process. Dr. Seebacher mentions that the charges should defray some costs this year.

The Board begins to discuss the Performance Statistics. Chief Lubin reports that we still don't have the 3rd quarter, and it should be emailed within the next three weeks. TOS had 109 calls, VOS had 433, New Castle had 15. He goes on to explain the outliers than cannot be married up under a definitive column. Response time is under 9 minutes 90% of the time. The outliers here may be when a 2nd call comes when an ambulance is already on the way, etc. Dr. Seebacher wants to see further focus on the 7 to 9 minute category, even though the current times are exemplary. Chief Lubin reports that he can work on a more detailed report for the 7 to 9 minute category. There is discussion of a rig at Phelps that can move in both directions which will help smooth these numbers.

The Board moves on to the Year to Date financial letter. In response to questions about whether the Ambulance District or any additions to fall under the 2% tax cap, Supervisor Borgia insists that there is a very clear formula about what is exempted.

Town Councilman Tripodi mentions that he is unhappy that this meeting was not posted to any website, that the meeting was not being filmed, and that to his understanding, the budget was due in September. Dr. Seebacher responds that everyone is struggling to get their budgets in order, and that everyone is doing their best. Councilman Tripodi continues to mention the OVAC vehicle and the Town being compensated, and insists that a Board member resign to let a Town Outside resident be appointed to the Board. He goes on to mention that he is waiting on several information requests from OVAC.

The Board invites Chief Flynn to speak about his concerns. He has concerns about documents he has asked for from the Board, some internal issues at OVAC. Dr. Seebacher responds by saying he understands these concerns, and is confident that the new administrator at Phelps will take a firmer hand and that the new leadership will see that these issues be rectified.

Adjourned into Executive Session at 8:10 PM